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Zaragüeta, comedia en dos actos original de Miguel Ramos Carrión y Vital Aza, anotada por M. A. De Vitis. Ann Arbor, Mich. George Wahr, publisher, 1917.

This delightful little comedy by Carrión and Aza was first edited in this country in 1901 by Professor Howland, and was revised in 1915. Although there may still be room for a new edition of "Zaragüeta" the present edition has been so carelessly done that it leaves much to be desired. Professor Bonilla in a criticism of this edition¹ justly laments the pass to which we have come in the editing of Spanish texts. His criticism covered only the notes to the text, which he found replete with errors and humorous absurdities. Such unbecoming traits as error and bad taste are everywhere in evidence throughout the book and a frank statement of the case is due to teachers of Spanish.

A careful examination of the book leads one to believe that the editor borrowed lavishly from the first Howland edition, and played havoc with it. In his preface Mr. De Vitis says: "During the preparation of the notes and vocabulary for this comedy the editor read it with one class in university and three different classes in high school, so that this edition is suited for classes in the second semester college work or in the latter part of the second-year high-school work." Putting aside the false reasoning, let us see what the editor did, in part, in the preparation of his edition. He constructed a *Prólogo* carelessly written in English Spanish, wherein he startles us with the statement that Ramos Carrión (who died in 1915) "hoy continúa escribiendo para los teatros de Madrid." ! ! ! After such a shock we do not mind the statement that Vital Aza died in 1913, which is doubtless near enough, since the Spanish playwright died in December, 1912. Next, in preparation of his edition there can be no doubt that he utilized the unrevised Howland edition of 1901, apparently sending the printed text of the play to the printer. The pages of the De Vitis edition correspond almost exactly to those of the first Howland edition. Occasional difficulties were overcome by employing brackets to hold overflow lines, e. g.:

SAT. Veamos. [ridísimos e inolvidables tíos.]

IND. (*Leyendo.*) "Madrid, 5 Septiembre. Mis que- (p. 8).

Mr. De Vitis, it is true, has followed the new system of accentuation, but he has otherwise followed his copy closely and included almost all its errors, besides adding many more. I have noticed the following errors which his text has in common with the Howland text: p. 9, l. 22 *pecunario* for *pecuniario* (both vocabularies have *pecuniario*); p. 14, l. 15 *desengañate* for *desengañate*; p. 30, lines 3-4 *reconcimiento* for *reconocimiento*; p. 46, l. 32 *que dirás que* for *qué dirás que*; p. 49, l. 11 *y ánimate tú, mujer* for *y animale tú, mujer*; p. 54, l. 7 *sin oírle* for *sin oírle*; p. 62, l. 17 *Quién?* for *¿Quién?*; p. 63, l. 13 *¿a dónde?* for *¿a dónde?*. On page 8 we find *Septiembre*, and in the vocabulary, p. 148 *Setiembre*, just as in the first Howland edition. The vocabulary of the De Vitis edition contains the following errors and omissions which are to be found in each book: p. 124 *ajaja* for *ajajá* (both

¹ *Modern Language Journal*, Nov., 1918, pp. 86-88.

texts have the correct form); p. 130 *corriente*, *m.* for *corriente*, *f.* (both texts have *las corrientes*, p. 20, l. 7); p. 134 *electroterapia* for *electroterapia* (both texts have the correct form); p. 135 the demonstrative pronouns are omitted; p. 139 *lejano* means "in the distance" (cf. p. 4, l. 25); p. 142 "neurastheny" for "neurasthenia"; p. 149 *su* also means "your"; p. 150 *terapeutico* for *terapéutico* (both texts have the correct form); p. 152 *vuestro* is omitted. In addition the book contains scores of errors of which no mention is made here.

The notes are, for the most part, dictionary equivalents given in Spanish (?) of certain words in the text which have been apparently chosen at random. One of the few phrases in "Zaragüeta" which really need annotation: "*Pues me luzco si llego a escurrirme un poquito más.*" (p. 17, lines 25-26) is explained (?) in a meaningless Spanish phrase. Evidently the editor has attempted to translate the incorrect note in the first Howland edition. The notes, as a whole, are intended to give the learner drill in Spanish conversation. Inaccuracy and carelessness, however, are poor drill masters. What will the poor student do when he finds the word *fisiológico* (p. 58, l. 28) referred to in the notes as *fisiológico?*. Naturally he will turn to the vocabulary, and find—*fisiólogo*. On page 97 we are confidentially told that a *sordo* is *uno que puede oír*. Words like *¡Deliciosísimas!* (p. 106) are truly so. One might be tempted to question the editor's seriousness, but not his carelessness. In all, the book contains over one hundred errors and omissions, and it is unfair to teachers and pupils alike to recommend such a work to them until a corrected and revised edition appears.

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